

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04532

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC
SUBJECT: NATO FORCE GOALS FOR 1979-1984: POSITION FOR
MAY 9 DPC MEETING

REFS:(A) USNATO 4439 (DTG 030750Z MAY 78), (B) USNATO 3737
(DTG 121816Z APR 78), (C) STATE 90646 (DTG 080127Z APR 78)

1. IN ADDRESSING NATO FORCE GOALS ON MAY 9, DPC PERMREPS
WILL BE ASKED TO (A) NOTE THE GENERAL REPORT BY THE
DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)(DPC/D(78)3), PROVIDED
SEPTEL; (B) ADOPT ON BEHALF OF MINISTERS THE RECOMMENDED
FORCE GOALS FOR 1979-1984; AND (C) APPROVE THE DRAFT
REPORT ON NATO FORCE GOALS FROM PERMREPS TO MINISTERS.
CONSISTENT WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES, THE LATTER
REPORT IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL WITH THE DRC GENERAL
REPORT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS
SECTIONS (PROVIDED SEPTEL), WHERE THE NECESSARY FORMAL
CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE.

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2. RECOMMENDED US POSITION: IN LINE WITH OUR EFFORTS
TO ENSURE THAT THE CENTRAL FOCUS OF THIS SPRING'S
DEFENSE PLANNING ACTION REMAINS ON THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE
PROGRAM, WE INTEND TO BE APPROPRIATELY BRIEF IN OUR
COMMENT ON NATO FORCE GOALS AT THE MAY 9 MEETING.
WE PROPOSE TO (A) ENDORSE THE GENERAL REPORT TO MINISTERS
AS WRITTEN; (B) ACCEPT, AS QUALIFIED IN THE US COUNTRY

CHAPTER, THE FORCE GOALS FOR 1979-1984; AND (C) NOTE THE WELCOME TURN-AROUND IN THE DEFENSE SPENDING PLANS OF MOST ALLIES. IN VIEW OF SACLAN'T'S EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CHANGES IN US NAVAL PROGRAMS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MAY RAISE THIS MATTER IN HIS REMARKS ON FORCE GOALS. IF SO, WE WOULD PLAN TO RESPOND ALONG THE LINES OF REFS B AND C THAT (A) US NAVAL PROGRAMS ARE STILL UNDER GOVERNMENTAL REVIEW AND NO FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE; (B) THOUGH A REDUCTION FROM PREVIOUS PROVISIONAL PLANS, THE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS CALLS FOR A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE US FLEET AND IN SHIPS COMMITTED TO NATO; (C) NO DECREASE IN THE MAJOR US MARITIME COMMITMENT TO NATO IS CONTEMPLATED; AND (D) WE WILL PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON US MARITIME PROGRAMS IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF THE 1978 DEFENSE REVIEW.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS, MAY 9. GLITMAN

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